

OATS WORTH PLANTING

Cheapest and Best Food For Work Animals. How To Prepare Land For Oats.

Generally reports of large yields of corn reach the public. When a farmer has a field that promises to 75 bushels to the acre, that made known and the yield increases the more it is talked about. The big crops always get in the papers. While there are ten acres that will make 500 bushels of corn there are 500 other acres in the same township that will not make ten bushels to the acre. From many of the counties of the up-country reports indicate that the corn crop will be very short. Wherever that is the case an abundant oat crop should be sown. They are the cheapest and best food for work animals. They come in the last of May just as they are greatly needed. Even if a farmer has made an abundant corn crop, it is cheaper to raise oats for horse feed and sell his corn to needy neighbors. Another great advantage that results from sowing oats is that the farmer has land to sow peas on, and thus the soil is improved.

DO OATS IMPOVERISH SOIL?

The belief of farmers in former days was that oats impoverished the soil rapidly. That belief was founded on the fact that farmers generally sowed their poorest land in oats, and they sowed in the spring of the year. When they were cut in June the ground was left bare, and it was too poor to produce weeds and grass. Oats are as worse on land than other crops. An acre of land that would make 35 bushels of wheat would require 24 pounds phosphoric acid, 31 pounds of potash and 59 pounds of nitrogen. That is the straw chaff and grain would give that amount on analysis. Sixty pounds of oats would require 22 pounds of phosphoric acid, 62 pounds of potash and 55 pounds of nitrogen. The plant food required to make 35 bushels of wheat or 60 bushels of oats is worth nearly the same; that for the wheat being \$10.77, and for the oats \$11.68. Then money value of the oat crop is greater than the value of the wheat. Any crop will draw plant food from the soil and impoverish land if it is not kept up. Oats or wheat sown on even thin land and followed by a pea crop will improve land very rapidly.

PREPARATION FOR OATS.

If stubble or corn land is to be sown in oats, it should be well broken and harrowed. About two inches of the sub-soil should be broken so as to mix with the top soil. It should be harrowed until the land is smooth and the soil well pulverized. In all the upper counties the oats should be put in during October with an oat drill. There are two good drills, one made in Georgia, the other in Charlotte, N. C. There lay off the rows, distribute the fertilizer, plant and cover the seed at the same time. If a four-inch plough is used the rows will be about twelve inches apart. The larger the plough the wider will be the rows. One hand will put in two acres a day. In the lower counties the oats will, no doubt, stand the winters if sown broadcast. Six or eight pecks may be planted on the acre. If put in early, a bushel will give a good stand. Oats require more potash than wheat or corn. That should be borne in mind when applying fertilizer.

The following formula is a good one for oats:

- 1,000 pounds acid phosphate.
- 600 pounds kainit.
- 400 pounds cotton seed meal.

If the above should be applied to

five acres of ordinary land the yield ought to be 40 bushels to the acre, provided some nitrate is applied in the spring.

If a higher grade is wanted this formula would fill the requirement:

- 1,200 pounds acid phosphate.
 - 300 pounds muriate potash.
 - 500 pounds cotton seed meal.
- That would give on analysis 9-7-50-2. The potash is high in this mixture, but oats need potash. There is no reason why farmers on good land by applying 600 to 800 pounds of high grade fertilizer and one hundred pounds of nitrate of soda should not make 100 bushels of oats to the acre. It can be done in this State, and many farmers ought to make attempt.

BEST SEED.

It is generally better to get seed raised in the neighborhood or in a latitude corresponding to this. It will be safe to sow either oats or wheat raised at the foot of the Blue Bridge from Fredericksburg, Va., to Birmingham. Such seed are acclimated. We have seen the finest oats grown far North that would make nothing here. The Appler is now the favorite variety in this State. They are an improvement on the red rust proof. There are other varieties advertised, but investigation leads us to believe that none of them are superior to the Appler or red rust roof. Perhaps the best combination is to sow the hairy vetch with oats. They grow together and if cut just as the oats are in the drought state, they make a great abundance of feed, whether in the green or cured state. The vetch is also a nitrogen gatherer, which improves the land. It is said that crimson clover also does well sown with oats as they are ready to cut at the same time. But as a general thing it is better not to mix crops. Sow all these forage crops on separate lots, unless on small, rich lots that will bear heavy seeding.

CULTIVATION OF OATS.

When nitrate applied in the spring of the year, a smoothing harrow should be run over them. That stirs the soil and opens it up to the influence of air and sunlight. The harrowing knocks down all the ridges made by the oat drill and leaves the land very smooth. It is easy to run the reaper over land thus prepared. Some farmers have no reapers, but a rapid and good way to harvest oats is to use a mower. A hand and two mules can cut about eight acres a day. If they are quite ripe they may be hauled up and stored in the barn without any danger of spoiling. Of course, the reaper and self-binder is best, and does more satisfactory work. —Charles Petty in News and Courier.

An Early Surprise At The "Manse."

The new occupants of the Presbyterian Manse were somewhat surprised Monday night, the 20th. inst., by the noise of an approaching multitude, followed by a ring of the door bell. Dr. Buckner emerged from his study to see who of the merry company were entering and to welcome them. Whereupon he found the whole multitude entering and loaded with packages. The rest can be imagined more easily than described.

This early and unexpected "pounding" by members of his new flock, a little startling at first, was found to be a very effective and pleasing introduction, making the Pastor-elect, his gentle helpmeet and the little folks all feel at home immediately.

An examination of the bundles and the discovery of names not met in the company revealed that other friends and members of the flock, not present in person, had sent contributions. To one and all the pastor and his household desire to express their grateful appreciation.

To Trustees of Marion County.

In making out the annual report of this office to the State Superintendent of Education, I have found some startling conditions of carelessness on the part of the teachers. It seems that neither the teachers nor the trustees realize as they should the importance of these reports. Their greatest importance of course lies in the fact that the money raised by the constitutional three mill levy is apportioned according to this report. In addition to the fact that it seems almost impossible to get these reports from some of the schools, when by virtue of much coaxing, entreaty and prayer, some scanty report is at last obtained, it is found on inspection to be very beggarly indeed and in some cases ignorantly incorrect.

Now this is seldom the fault of the trustees, except in so far as they are to blame in being hoodwinked into electing an incompetent teacher. In fact it is not the fault of the trustees at all, for in some cases the teachers are college graduates and hold first grade certificates, cases of this kind are just as numerous as they are amongst the negro teachers. There is no excuse for this except unadulterated carelessness on the part of the teacher. It is to be expected that negro teachers with their limited education, should make mistakes in making out their reports, but for an intelligent white man or woman to send in a report like some of those sent in this year, there is not the shadow of an excuse.

Now we have decided to see that these reports are made out correctly this year and as a means to this end, I have sent out new registers to the teachers. These registers have a new form for the annual report and it is to be hoped that they will be used for drawing money and for making out the reports. Furthermore no teachers warrant will be approved unless the monthly report is correctly made out on the back of the warrant. In addition the banks of the county have been asked to refuse to cash any warrants which have not been approved at the Superintendent's office and every business house should take notice of this. When it is inconvenient for country teachers to come in person, they may send their warrants to this office and checks will be mailed to them.

There is another matter that I would like to call to the attention of the trustees, which is the certificate question.

There are some certificates that are not worth the paper on which they are written. While some teachers holding these worthless certificates taught last year, still they may not be allowed to do so this year. The certificate referred to here is the one that has been renewed from year to year and is to begin with, of a low grade. There are also certificates that on account of the utter lack of ability as a teacher on the part of the holder may be revoked.

The question of certificates has heretofore been very loosely conducted throughout the state but there is a general movement at present for a stricter enforcement of the law, in order that the children of our country may not be basely imposed upon by ignorant teachers. This is the beginning of the year and it will be necessary for the trustees to look into this matter very carefully.

JOE. P. LANE, Supt. Ed.

The average farmer is probably not aware of the fact that an average mule sells for \$10 a head more than horses. Such is the case, and the price had been gradually rising for a number of years. There has never been what would be called an over-production of mules, while the market has often been unable to fully supply.

We take it for granted that parents are as much if not more interested in the advancement of their children at school as are the teachers, and no teacher takes delight in a pupil's failure. The management simply wishes to call the attention of the parents to the facts in the case and urgently request, no demand, that nothing be allowed to interfere with the progress of their children in school work.

GOVERNOR NAMES DELEGATES.

Men Appointed to Attend Farmer's Congress at Raleigh.

Columbia, September 24.—Governor Ansel to-day appointed delegates to the Farmer's National Congress, which will be held at Raleigh, N. C., commencing November 4. Gov. Ansel has been invited to attend the Congress, but it is hardly probable that he will attend. The following are those that were appointed:

H. McRae, Dillon, S. C.; R. P. Hamer, Jr., Hamer, S. C.; S. Gibson, Gibson, N. C.; Wad's Stackhouse, Dillon, S. C.; D. L. McLaurin, McColl, S. C.; Sheriff J. B. Green, Bennettsville, S. C.; Tom C. Hamer, Bennettsville; M. H. Haynesworth, Florence, S. C.; R. P. Reed, Ebenezer; Walter Gregg, Mars Bluff, S. C.; L. E. Carrigan, Society Hill; D. T. McKeithan, Darlington; E. C. Edwards, Mullins; W. B. Allen, Mallory, Will Godbolt, Marion and D. W. Bethea, Dillon.

JOHN A. JOHNSON.

Deep regret will be felt the country over that John A. Johnson's brave fight against death was unavailing. The governor of Minnesota died early Tuesday morning in the private hospital at Rochester, Minn., where an operation was performed upon him in the hope of gaining relief from the disease with which he had suffered.

The best measure of the respect and regard in which Mr. Johnson was held by his fellow men is to be found in the universal interest which was displayed in his fight for life and the many expressions of regret everywhere heard that the grim messenger had conquered.

There was that in John A. Johnson's life story that appealed strongly to the great mass of honest, sturdy Americans. He had known the bitterest pangs of poverty. Like Abraham Lincoln, he arose, by sheer force of will and character, to eminence and renown. And like Lincoln he maintained, as he progressed higher, the same affectionate regard and confidence of the "plain people" that were his meed in the days of poverty and hard toil.

John A. Johnson died in the prime of life. Had he lived a few years longer there is strong reason to believe he would have achieved the highest honor in the gift of the American people to bestow. He was the strongest competitor against Mr. Bryan for the Democratic nomination in 1908. Many believed he would have been successful in achieving both nomination and election three years hence, had he been spared. Speculation as to what might have been is fruitless, however, in the light of what is. And John A. Johnson needs no higher honors than he had already won to keep memory green. As a boy, he was a loving faithful son to a hard-working mother, taking upon his own shoulders at tender years the burden of support of the family; as a youth he was still faithful, plodding, alert, scrupulously honest; working hard all day and reading half the night to gain an education. From the humble desk of a country newspaper office he was called to the administration of the affairs of state as chief executive of Minnesota. So faithfully to the interests of the people did he perform his duties that twice again, in the face of large normal Republican pluralities, was Johnson chosen governor. When asked the secret of his success Johnson is said to have replied: "I tried to make good." He did. As a faithful son; an earnest editor; an honest governor, he made good. That is epitaph enough.

Races October 7th.

There has been so much discussion over the relative speed of Alfonso, the famous Marlboro trotter owned by Mr. Walter Drake, and Marguerite, the little mare owned by Mr. L. Edwards, that made such a fine record last summer, that a stake race has been arranged between the two to be pulled off at Bennettsville tomorrow. On the following Thursday, October 7th., they will race again on the Dillon track. It is understood that friends of each horse are claiming the race and the meet is bound to be of more than ordinary interest. The friends of Alfonso claim that he did not get a fair "show" when he was beaten by Marguerite at Darlington and Dillon, while on the other hand the friends of Marguerite claim that she won on her merits and she showed faster time than Alfonso could make. Anyway there has been so much argument and discussion over the relative speed of these two favorites of the track that it was decided to pull off the races and settle the question for the time being. Marguerite was sent to Bennettsville Monday. She will be driven by her owner, Mr. L. Edwards, who has almost recovered from the serious accident on the Darlington track last summer that almost cost him his foot. Local sportsmen are looking forward to the event with a great deal of interest, and of course the odds are in favor of Marguerite among Dillon turfmen.

SENSATIONAL CASE IN SALUDA.

Doubtless one of the most sensational cases ever threshed out in Saluda court house was up before the referee court Tuesday and Wednesday. It is a case involving two of the most prominent families in the county.

In October of last year Mr. Julian Werts was married to Miss Fay Trotter. They lived together as man and wife until the first of February this year, when they separated. Mr. Werts is endeavoring to have the marriage annulled and Mrs. Fay Trotter Werts is fighting the annulment proceedings.

Mr. Werts is a very intelligent, hard working young man and the defendant one of the prettiest women in the county.

There is much interest in the proceedings, and morbid curiosity exhibited.

We see absolutely no good to be gained by either side, and the naked truths necessarily divulged are not calculated to do anybody any good.—Saluda Standard.

Another Preacher Allen.

The following from the Baptist Courier tells of the ordination to the ministry of another member of that Marlboro family which has given so many good preachers to the Baptist denomination.

The ordination of Bro. B. F. Allen took place recently at Cat Fish church, Marion county. Brethren A. E. C. Pitman, W. C. Allen, and Joel I. Allen took part in the ordination. Bro. B. F. Allen has accepted the call of the church at Denmark. He is a graduate of Furman, and of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the son of a Baptist deacon, grandson of a Baptist minister, the late Rev. W. C. Allen, and has a brother in the ministry, Rev. W. C. Allen, pastor of the Latta church. His grandfather, on his maternal side, was the late Deacon Ccxe, of Florence.—Pee Dee Advocate.

The Dillon Herald \$1.50 a year.

DON'T BE TOO FRIENDLY.

A Lesson of the Road Learned by a Salesman.

Chicago Tribune.

A salesman's desire to extend his acquaintance is laudable, but he must use judgment in the manner in which he does it.

John L. Vance (which is not his name) the best salesman of a large Chicago house, had just returned the night before from a trip through Kansas. He was seated at his desk dictating when two detectives from the Central Station presented themselves for admission.

"Are you Mr. John L. Vance?" they asked.

"I am," was the reply.

"And is this—Michigan avenue?"

"It is."

"I am sorry," said one of the detectives, showing his star, "but we will have to ask you to accompany us to the station. We have had a telegram from the sheriff at McPherson, Kas., giving us your full name and address, asking us to hold you on charge of fraud."

Mr. Vance was dumfounded. He had only been in McPherson overnight had failed to sell his many goods, had paid his hotel bill, and left town the following morning. At the police station he convinced the chief that there must be some mistake, and was released upon his promise to return the following morning, at which time further details were expected.

When Vance arrived at his office in the morning there was a night telegram on his desk from a clothing firm at McPherson which read as follows: "Unless you wire money, will imprison you for obtaining goods under false pretenses." The sender of the telegram Vance had never heard of. Nor did the description received from McPherson at the police station during the day fit him. The chief was satisfied of the mistake, and dismissed his suspect.

Then Vance began to think. He remembered that on the train as he was nearing McPherson, his companion in the smoker had been a dapper young man with whom he had exchanged cards, after a few minutes of conversation. It afterwards developed that this man had presented the card and obtained a suit of clothes asking the dealer to send the bill around to the hotel the following evening. His expense funds were expected, was the man's excuse for not paying cash. He had missed his check in the last town.

The merchant consulted a "rating" book, and as Mr. Vance's firm was well rated the credit was granted. Needless to say, neither the dapper young man nor the suit of clothes was to be found in the hotel the following evening. The register showed that Mr. Vance had left that morning.

We are adding new names to The Herald's subscription list every week and want to increase our circulation several hundred copies between now and the first of the year. Send in your name at once. The paper goes to you twelve long months for only \$1.50.

Our town has never enjoyed such a trade as it has during the past few weeks, and every day it is increasing. The fact of the matter is our business men have got right down to business and are selling goods cheaper than they can be bought in any town of this size in the state, and the people are fast finding it out and are coming here from adjoining counties to do their heavy trading.